

Appl. No. 10/643,330
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT B BEFORE FIRST ACTION

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 – 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A method of making synthetic diamond comprising:

- a. providing cremated human or animal ~~remains~~ tissue;
- b. collecting residual carbon from said cremated human or animal ~~remains~~ tissue;
and
- c. converting said residual carbon to diamond.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said collecting step is carried out by adding additional carbon to said cremated human or animal ~~remains~~ tissue and purifying said cremated human or animal ~~remains~~ tissue in the presence of said additional carbon.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said converting step is carried out under conditions effective to form a diamond gemstone.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising facetting said diamond gemstone.

18. (Currently amended) A method of making synthetic diamond comprising:

- a. providing at least partially cremated human or animal ~~remains~~ tissue;
- b. collecting residual carbon from said at least partially cremated human or animal ~~remains~~ tissue; and
- c. converting said residual carbon to diamond.

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19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said collecting step is carried out by adding additional carbon to said at least partially cremated human or animal remains tissue and purifying said human or animal remains tissue in the presence of said additional carbon.
20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said converting step is carried out under conditions effective to form a diamond gemstone.
21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising facetting said diamond gemstone.
22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of providing at least partially cremated human or animal remains tissue is carried out by obtaining at least partially cremated human or animal remains tissue from a source.
23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of providing at least partially cremated human or animal remains tissue is carried out by treating human or animal remains tissue in a cremation oven.
24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said treating step is carried out under conditions effective to conserve residual elemental carbon.
25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein said conditions effective to conserve residual elemental carbon comprise cremating at least a portion of the available human or animal remains tissue in a closed vessel placed within a cremating oven.
26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein said conditions effective to conserve residual elemental carbon comprise positioning the human or animal remains tissue in a cremating oven so that at least one of the head and chest area is not positioned directly underneath the main burner.

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27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said conditions effective to conserve residual elemental carbon comprise using a cremation temperature of approximately 1000 degrees Fahrenheit (5×10^2 degrees Celsius).

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein said conditions effective to conserve residual elemental carbon are provided by dividing human or animal ~~remains~~ tissue to be cremated into at least two portions, and cremating at least one said portion under conditions effective to conserve elemental carbon.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein said conditions effective to conserve residual elemental carbon are provided by dividing human or animal ~~remains~~ tissue to be cremated into at least two portions, and cremating at least one said portion in at least partial isolation from oxygen, compared to at least one other said portion of the human or animal ~~remains~~ tissue.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said at least partially cremated human or animal ~~remains~~ tissue are partially cremated, further comprising the step, after collecting human or animal ~~remains~~ tissue comprising residual carbon from said partially cremated human or animal ~~remains~~ tissue, of further cremating said partially cremated human or animal ~~remains~~ tissue.

31. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said tissue is human or animal remains.

32. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said tissue is human or animal remains.

33. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said tissue is human or animal remains.